

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (canceled)
2. (currently amended) ~~An~~The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid has having the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.
3. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 2[[1]], wherein the nucleic acid is DNA or RNA.
4. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 2[[1]], wherein the nucleic acid is cDNA.
- 5-14. (canceled)
15. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 2[[1]], wherein the nucleic acid is labeled with a detectable marker.
16. (original) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 15, wherein the detectable marker is a radioactive isotope, a fluorophor or an enzyme.
17. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid complementary to the entire sequence of the nucleic acid of claim 2[[1]].
18. (canceled)
19. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 17, wherein the isolated nucleic acid is labeled with a detectable marker.
20. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 19, wherein the marker is a radioactive isotope, a fluorophor or an enzyme.
- 21-22. (canceled)
23. (currently amended) A vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid of claim 2[[1]].

24. (previously presented) The vector of claim 23, further comprising a promoter or an expression element linked to the nucleic acid.

25. (original) The vector of claim 23, wherein the promoter comprises a bacterial, yeast, insect or mammalian promoter.

26. (previously presented) The vector of claim 24, wherein the vector is a plasmid, cosmid, yeast artificial chromosome (YAC), BAC, P1, bacteriophage or eukaryotic viral DNA.

27. (previously presented) An isolated host cell containing the vector of claim 23.

28. (previously presented) The isolated host cell of claim 27, wherein the host cell is a prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell.

29. (previously presented) The isolated host cell of claim 28, wherein the eukaryotic cell is a yeast, insect, plant or mammalian cell.

30. (previously presented) A method for producing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 27 under conditions suitable for production of the polypeptide and recovering the polypeptide from the host cell culture.

31. (previously presented) A method of obtaining a polypeptide in purified form comprising:

- (a) introducing the vector of claim 23 into a suitable host cell;
- (b) culturing the resulting cell so as to produce the polypeptide;
- (c) recovering the polypeptide produced in step (b); and
- (d) purifying the polypeptide.

32-58. (canceled)